1827,

DOCUMENTS

FROM THE

WAR DEPARTMENT,

ACCOMPANYING THE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS.

PART II.

6

WAR DEPARTMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,
November 26th, 1827.

SIR: I submit a report of the administration of this Department, from the date of my last report.

I beg leave to refer you to the accompanying reports, made up in pursuance of my orders, marked from A to P. They disclose, in detail, the measures which have been carried into effect in the various branches of the public service, subject to the superintendence of this Department.

The document A, is a report of Major General Brown, on the state of the Army. I renew, with pleasure, an expression of my entire satisfaction at the condition of the Army, both as to its moral and military character. As far as I am officially advised, its officers are now essentially exempt from the degrading vice of intemperance. The few examples which have been made, (though necessary, yet reluctantly,) to cleanse the Army from this blot, united with a declared, unalterable determination, never to pardon when a sentence of guilt for this offence, on satisfactory evidence, was pronounced by a Court Martial, it is hoped will restrain the very few, if any, who are disposed to forget, in this indulgence, what is due to their characters as officers of the American Army. To its good discipline, generally, the most ample testimony is borne, and particularly by Major General Brown, who, during the present year made a tour of inspection through three of the great sections of the Union. The two schools of practice, Fortress Monroe and Jefferson Barracks, will be great auxiliaries in promoting its perfection. For the benefit of the former, I again renew a recommendation for the purchase of horses contained in former reports, and for the reasons therein presented. The fiscal administration of the Army continues to be entitled to the highest commendation, both as to its economy and punctuality. In the spirit of the former, a retrenchment has been made in the article of officer's transportation, by which no inconsiderable expense will, in future, be avoided; and it will be seen, with satisfaction, that in the articles of clothing and subsistence of the Army, there will be a considerable saving in the ensuing year, compared with the present; and, notwithstanding the increased pay and allowance, so justly given at the last

session to company officers, and for which no appropriation was made, and also the additional costs incurred in suppressing the threatened hostilities of the Indians, the total amount asked to meet the various demands on this Department for the year 1828, is less by near a million of dollars than for the year 1827; principally, however, resulting from surpluses in former appropriations. And in relation to its punctuality, no ascertained delinquency whatever, has occurred in any one of its various departments.

I beg leave, also, to recommend to the favorable consideration of Congress, the alteration proposed by the Commissary General of Subsistence in the organization of that Department, presuming that the mode of supplying the Army by contract, whose advantages have been so satisfactorily manifested, will be continued by a new act of legislation, the former law being about to expire. In confirmation of this suggestion, as to the advantage of supplying the Army by this system, I beg leave to state that the price of rations, although of a much superior quality to those formerly issued, have been reduced to 11 6-10 cents at our most expensive posts, while at those least so, we procure them at 6 8-10 cents.

I recommend to the consideration of Congress the erection of the buildings in or near the city of New York, and in the city of New Orleans, as proposed by the Quarter Master General.

I presume to suggest for the consideration of Congress, the propriety of founding an Army Asylum. Such establishments, it is believed, enter into the policy of every other nation, and even here have obtained already in the Naval branch of the service. Uniformity of system alone, in the two arms of the national defence, therefore, would seem to require it. The condition of some of the defenders of their country during the revolutionary war, excited so far the sympathy of Congress as to experience its bounty. It is highly probable, in our future history, that many, both privates and officers, may be in circumstances no less distressing. Indeed cases are now of frequent occurrence, where the Department is applied to for relief. An honorable Asylum from such a condition, seems to be dictated alike by policy and gratitude. A small monthly deduction from the pay of the officers and privates, will constitute the fund for its support. It would manifest the beneficence of the Nation, if means were furnished at once from the public treasury for the erection of the necessary buildings.

The Military Academy at West Point, from the report of the late visiters, is progressing with its accustomed success, and loses nothing in a comparison, according to the testimony of those whose opportunities enable them to decide, with any establishment of the kind in the world.

In making selections from the thousands of candidates, I have redeemed my pledge, made in a former report, of appointing one Cadet at least from each Congressional district.

In selecting visiters of inspection, I have deemed it but an act of justice to invite them from every quarter of the Union; and when it suited the convenience of the immediate representatives of the people to attend, (as it is a service without reward,) I have given them the preference, that they might, from their own observation, be the better able to decide on its value, and suggest and promote whatever was calculated to increase its usefulness.

The two corps of Engineers have been actively engaged during the year; some in field duties, others in superintending fortifications. The former have returned to this place, for the purpose of reporting upon their labours. I have had occasion, in former reports, to suggest the utter inadequacy of the existing organization of these useful officers to the demand on their services.

The various objects upon which Congress directed a reconnoissance to be made, were promptly attended to.

In selecting among the objects presented for reconnoissance by the State authorities, and respectable associations of private citizens, I have endeavored to be governed by their relative importance, and a due regard to the fair claims of all parts of the Union. The result of the surveys has, in some instances, reduced the scale of the proposed objects, so as to deprive them of the character of national importance; but, even in these cases, the labors of the corps have not been lost. By their superior science and experience, they have given valuable information to those concerned, which, from their limited resources, they would have been unable otherwise to have procured. Having finished the survey of the proposed National Road from this place to New Orleans, and made their report, which I had the honor of submitting to the 19th Congress, no further step can be taken by the Department till the pleasure of Congress is signified by legislative enactment. Among the many important objects to which the attention of the Department has been directed during the past season, may be particularly enumerated, the great Western National Road; the proposed Ohio and Chesapeake Canal; the Rail Road from Baltimore to the waters of the Ohio; a communication between the waters of James River and the Western waters; the improvement of the navigation in the Tennessee River; and the Canal through Florida. Although the Rail Road is proposed to be effected by individual enterprise alone, it is certainly of great national importance, and justified the Department in applying its means to ascertain its practicability. Reports on all these subjects are in a course of preparation, except on the Rail Road, and it is hoped that most of them will be prepared in time to be laid before Congress, at its present session. For more particular information on these subjects, I refer to document B.

I refer to documents B and C, containing the reports of the Engineer and Quarter Master's Department, in which may be seen the measures which have been pursued in execution of sundry special acts of Congress, directing the construction of Roads and the improvement of Harbors, &c.

In the report of the Engineer Department, will be seen the progress we have made in our several fortifications.

Document H is the report of the officer having direction of the Ordnance Department. The alterations suggested by that officer, in the organization of that Department, have been heretofore presented, and received the favourable consideration of Congress at their last session. I beg leave again to add my recommendation of the proposed changes.

The report of the same officer on the Lead Mines, gives a very satisfactory view of the importance of this property to the United States; the expected annual supply is equal to 10,000,000 pounds; a tythe of which, as rent, received by the government, will be more than sufficient for the purposes of the Army and Navy.

Document I is the report of the Clerk of Pensions, by which it appears the number of Revolutionary pensioners have been diminished by death, since the last report, four hundred and forty-three, and of Invalid pensioners forty eight.

In compliance with the act of Congress, entitled "An Act to authorize the President of the United States to run and mark a line, dividing the Territory of Florida from the State of Georgia," a Commissioner was appointed, on the part of the United States, to co-operate with one appointed by the State authorities of Georgia, for the purpose of carrying the act into effect. I regret to report that the object has not been effected; the correspondence on the subject will present the causes of the failure, and are contained in document K.

The document L, is the report of the Clerk charged with Indian Affairs, accompanied with a treaty made with the Chippewa, Menomenie, and Winnebagoe tribes of Indians.

Under the injunction of the treaty made with the Sioux and the Chippewa, Sac and Fox, Menomenie, Ioway, Sioux, Winnebagoe, and a portion of the Ottowa, Chippewa, and Potowatamie tribes of Indians, made at Prairie du Chien, on the 19th August, 1825, two citizens were directed to repair to Green Bay, with a view to its fulfilment. Just, however, preceding their arrival, a portion of the Winnebagoes, a powerful and perverse tribe, had committed serious acts of hostility, by the murder of some of our citizens; and unfavorable appearances among other tribes, indicated the design, as it was apprehended, of a powerful combination, threatening to disturb the peace of our borders. Gov. Cass, as soon as he was advised of these circumstances, with great promptitude, and equal prudence, appealed directly to Gen. Atkinson, in command at Jefferson Barracks, for aid; who with a commendable zeal, moved with about six hundred men under his command, to the anticipated theatre of hostilities, where he was met by other detachments from the army, and by volunteer companies composed of patriotic citizens.

Gov. Edwards, for the protection of the people of Illinois, also ordered out a small portion of her militia. The celerity of these movements, with the imposing force gathered together, gave at once protection to our citizens. As soon as the Department was advised of

these movements, Gen. Gaines was directed to proceed to the scene of operations, and to adopt the necessary measures to inflict punishment on the offenders. The Indians sued for clemency, and obtained it, on condition of giving up the murderers, eight in number, who are now in custody to await the sentence of the law. The document M presents the details of the subject.

The excesses of the Indians may be ascribed to their thirst for blood. Their pretext is understood to rest on a supposed intrusion of the miners on their lands. To obviate any ground of complaint, and to meet the wishes of our Western citizens, it is proposed to procure, by purchase, an enlargement of our boundaries in that quarter, so as to embrace the whole of the highly valuable lead mines, said to abound in that region, and for which an appropriation will be hereafter asked.

I submit herewith, reports, marked 1, 2, and 3, from Col. McKenney, he having been charged with the business to which they refer; from which the disposition of the Chickasaws and Choctaws, in regard to emigration to lands West of the Mississippi, may be inferred; also showing that an agreement has been concluded with the Creeks, subject to an approval in the usual form by the Executive, and the sanction of a Creek council to be called for that purpose, which secures to the United States the strip of land in Georgia, not embraced in the cession of the treaty of Washington of the 24th January, 1826.

If the policy, as indicated in the ascertained dispositions of the Chickasaws especially, be approved by Congress, the appropriation of means corresponding thereto, will be required to carry the measure into effect. There is little doubt of the identity of feeling on this subject, in at least three of the Southern tribes, and of a large portion of the fourth; and that this feeling may be availed of, it is respectfully suggested that means be provided to be applied in the discretion of the Executive, to profit by its existence.

The information recently acquired of the disposition of the Indians within our limits to remove, has tended to strengthen the views which I have heretofore submitted on this subject; and I embrace the occasion, most respectfully, but earnestly, to solicit again the attention of Congress to the necessity of adopting some general system which might better the condition of the Indians, and relieve the States and Territories of the incumbrance of their residence, a never-failing source of inquietude, and, it is to be apprehended, of disturbance.

I have the honor to be
Your obed't serv't,
JAMES BARBOUR.

The PRESIDENT
Of the United States.

1827.

L.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,
Office of Indian Affairs, Nov. 24, 1827.

To the Hon. JAMES BARBOUR,
Secretary of War.

SIR: I had the honor, (in the absence of Colonel McKenney) in compliance (in part) with the order of the Department of the 10th September last, to lay before you, on the 29th ultimo, an estimate of the amount which will be required to be appropriated for the current

expenses of the Indian Department for the year 1828, to wit: $181,224, being the same amount as was required, by estimate, for the year 1827, but for which an appropriation of $156,100 only was made by Congress, being $25,124 less than the estimate.

There is reason to apprehend, notwithstanding the rigid regard which has been had to economy in the disbursements, that, in the fulfilment of the treaty obligations for which no specific provision was made, and of those which have necessarily grown out of the hostile conduct of certain Indians on the Mississippi, in the course of the year, the expenditures for the same will be found, when all the accounts come to be settled, not to have fallen much short, if any thing, of the amount estimated for; and that there will, consequently, be a deficiency in the appropriation made for 1827, of at least the amount of the estimate for that year, which was not provided for by Congress, to wit: $25,124. Should the result be as is anticipated, it will, in that event, be necessary to obtain an appropriation of that amount, at the ensuing session of Congress, to supply such deficiency. The sum of $181,224, estimated for 1828, is believed to be not a cent more than will be absolutely required for the service of that year. The reasons for this increase in the expenses of the Indian Department, are to be found in the new obligations imposed by recent treaties; in the extension of our intercourse with the Indians; in the emigration of the Indians from the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, which has taken place, more or less, for several years past, and continues to go on; and in the conferences which it has become necessary to hold, from time to time, with various Indian tribes, (particularly within the superintendency of General Clark,) to preserve peace between them. The expense for these objects has been considerable during the year, and there is no reason to doubt, from present indications, of its being equally so for some years to come.

In further compliance with the order of the 10th September last, I now have the honor to submit the accompanyiug statements marked A and B.

Statement A shows the amount of money disbursed in the Indian Department, under the various heads of appropriations, for the three first quarters of the present year, the amount for which accounts have been rendered, and the amount which remains to be accounted for. The large amount, ($309,509 18,) which appears to be unaccounted for, arises in some measure, from the circumstance of the statement showing the amount of remittances to the 30th September, while it only shows the amount of accounts rendered to the 1st of that month, (they being required to be so rendered annually, by the act of the 6th May, 1822, amendatory of the act of 1802,) making, of course, a considerable difference as the remittances made during the month are included in the former, and the disbursements made during the same time omitted in the latter. But the principal reason for this balance is, all the accounts to the 1st September had not come in when the statement was prepared. Since then, accounts have been received from General Clark, which alone reduce the balance to $221,513 31; and.

it is believed, that, when those which yet remain to come in, (and they are daily expected,) are received, the balance, which remains to be accounted for, will be reduced to a very small amount, probably not more than that which must necessarily result from the difference in the period for which the accounts are rendered, and that which the remittances are made up to. There is, in fact, no reason to doubt, but that the whole will be faithfully accounted for, as soon as all the objects, for which the remittances were made, are accomplished.

Statement B shows the number of Indian schools, the number of teachers to each, and the number of pupils. The amount disbursed for the present year, up to the 30th September, on account of these schools, for the annual appropriation of $10,000 for the civilization of the Indians, is, as will be seen by reference to the statement A, $8,246 84.

The school established at Great Crossings, in Kentucky, which is supported by funds appropriated by the Choctaws, Creeks, and Pattawatamies, for that purpose, is, by the last report, represented to be progressing with the most flattering success. The number of Indian youths attending it is 100—of which 64 are Choctaws, 25 Creeks, and 11 Pattwatimies.

The whole number of children now receiving education at the schools, including the one at Great Crossings, is 1291, being three less than there were last year. It is believed, however, when all the annual reports are received, (about one-third of which being yet due,) it will be found that the number has increased, instead of diminished, during the year.

The Commissioners appointed, under a provision made by Congress, for that purpose, 20th May, 1826, to hold a general council with the Indians at Green Bay, have performed that duty, and concluded a treaty with the Chippeway, Menemonie, and Winnebago tribes of Indians, which remains to be submitted for the ratification of the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate of the United States. The Commissioners appointed, under the provision made for the purpose at the last session of Congress, to hold a treaty with the Cherokees, have been engaged in their duties; but no report of the progress or result of their negotiations has yet been received.

Several attempts have been made, by order of the Department, during the year, through the Indian Agent, to obtain from the Creeks, by negotiation, the strip of land yet owned by them within the limits of the State of Georgia, but without success.

During the past Summer, some outrages of an aggravated character were commiteed by the Winnebagoes on some of our citizens on the Mississippi, and strong indications of a disposition to commit further acts of hostility, were manifested by these and other Indians, which, for a while, excited just apprehensions in our citizens in that quarter for their safety, and interrupted the operations of those engaged in working the lead mines on Fevre River. But, by the prompt movements of the military, (which will, it is presumed, be particularly reported by another branch of the Department,) these hostile indica-

tions have been entirely suppressed, and the Indians made to atone for their outrages, by the surrender, for punishment, of the principal persons concerned in them.

In all other respects, our relations with the Indians have been friendly, and there is good ground for believing, after the evidence the Indians have had, in the instance just referred to, of the power and will of the Government to punish them for acts of violence and outrage wantonly committed against our citizens, that they will continue so. There is reason to fear, however, while the district of country, in which the lead mines are situated, remains undefined, (as it is at present believed to be,) and the Indian title to the same not completely extinguished, that the operations of our citizens on the mines, will continue to excite the jealousy of the neighboring Indians, and that new disturbances, from this cause, between them and our citizens, may very soon arise. The Department, impressed with the importance of removing so serious a source of contention, (and from which it is believed the late disturbances chiefly sprung,) instructed the Commissioners appointed to hold the council with the Indians, at Green Bay, in addition to their other duties, to negotiate with the Indians for an entire extinguishment of their title to the mining district. These instructions, it appears, were not received by the Commissioners until they had separated, and, of course, they were not acted upon. A measure of so much importance, in securing our citizens, in future, from interruption in their mining operations, and fixing on a permanent and friendly footing, our relations with the Indians, will, no doubt, receive the further consideration and attention of the Department, and such steps be adopted for its accomplishment, as it may deem expedient.

On that part of the order of the tenth September, which requires such remarks as it may be thought proper to make in relation to the administration of the Indian Department, I have the honor to state, that I am not aware that any measure is required for the improvement of the administration of the Department, unless it be the one heretofore suggested and embraced by a bill which was submitted, by the Committee on Indian Affairs, to the House of Representatives, at the last and preceding sessions of Congress. Such an organization as that bill proposes, would no doubt produce the same beneficial results in the administration of this branch of the public service, as a similar organization is known to have produced in other branches. All of which is respectfully submitted

SAMUEL S. HAMILTON.

A.

EXTRACT from the Statement of the Second Auditor, shewing the amount of Requisitions issued under each head of appropriation, from the first day of January, 1827, to the 30th September; the amount of accounts of the respective Agents and Disbursing Officers in whose favor said requisitions were issued, which have been rendered for settlement; and the amount which remains unaccounted for.

	Requisitions issued from 1st Jan. 1827, to 30th Sept.	Amount of accounts rendered for settlement.	Amount which remains unaccounted for.
Indian Department, - - - - - - - -	$101,934 25	$101,934 25	
Pay of Indian Agents, and Superintendent at St. Louis, - -	40,356 65	25,106 65	15,250 00
Pay of Sub-agents, - - - - - - - -	20,461 86	9,386 48	11,075 38
Civilization of Indians, - - - - - - - -	8,246 84	4,400 00	3,846 84
Presents to Indians, - - - - - - - -	14,390 45	14,390 45	
Annuities, - - - - - - - -	227,496 63	159,364 28	68,132 35
Purchase of provisions for Quapaws, - - - - -	2,000 00	•	2,000 00
Carrying into effect treaties with Osages, Kanzas, and Shawnees, per act 20th May, 1826, - - - - - - -	4,550 00	1,060 37	3,489 63
Running a line dividing Florida from Georgia, - - - -	3,745 80	3,745 80	
To aid the Creeks in their removal West of the Mississippi, per act 20th May, 1826, - - - - - - - -	29,080 82	2 50	29,078 32
Act for the relief of the Florida Indians, - - - -	12,750 25	12,750 25	
Treaty with Choctaws and Chickasaws, per act 20th May, 1826, -	2,445 37	2,445 37	
Treaty with the Creeks of 26th Jan. 1826, per act 22d May, 1826,	96,472 51	14,081 58	82,390 93
Proceeds of the lands reserved for Choctaw schools, under 7th article of treaty of 18th October, 1820, - - - - -	7,104 40	833 83	6,270 57
Rations to Florida Indians, - - - - - -	30,015 96	30,015 96	
Running the line of the land assigned to the Florida Indians, -	330 56	330 56	
Holding treaties with Cherokees for a canal to connect the Highwassee and Conasago, - - - - - - -	10,000 00	•	10,000 00
To carry into effect certain Indian treaties, per act 2d March, 1827,	147,641 06	69,665 90	77,975 16
Holding treaties with Indians beyond the Mississippi, - -	93 05	93 05	
Dollars,	759,116 46	449,607 28	309,509 18

RECAPITULATION.

Amount of requisitions issued in the three first quarters of 1827, -	$759,116 46
Amount of accounts rendered for settlement during said period, -	449,607 28
	309,509 18
Amount for which accounts have been rendered by Gen. Clark, since the statement from which the above extract is taken was made by the Second Auditor, to wit: - - - - - -	87,995 87
Leaving this sum to be accounted for, - - - - -	$221,513 31

(B.)

STATEMENT shewing the number of Indian Schools, where established, by whom, the number of teachers, &c., the number of pupils, and the amount annually allowed and paid by the Government, with remarks as to their condition, &c.

No.	NAME OF SITE AND STATION.	BY WHOM ESTABLISHED.	Number of teachers.	Number of pupils.	Am. an. paid by the Government.
1	Spring Place, Cherokee Nation, Alabama,	United Brethren,	7	11	200
2	Oochgeelogy, do.	Do.	5	18	
3	Elliott, Choctaw Nation,	American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions	6	20	
4	Mayhew do.	Do. do. do.	6	54	
5	Bethel, do.	Do. do. do.	4	16	
6	Emmaus, do.	Do. do. do.	4	25	
7	Goshen, do.	Do. do. do.	6	14	1,000
8	Captain Harrison's do.	Do. do. do.	1	13	
9	Mr. Juzan's do.	Do. do. do.	1	15	
10	Ai-ik-hunna, do.	Do. do. do.	3	22	
11	Colonel Folsom's, do.	Do. do. do.	1	7	
12	Senecas, near Buffalo, New York,	Do. do. do.	8	45	200
13	Union, Osages, Arkansas,	Do. do. do.	6	31	150
14	Harmony, do. Missouri,	Do. do. do.	27	35	150
15	Tuscaroras, New York,	Do. do. do.	-	45	200
16	Michillimackinac,	Do. do. do.	-	50	300
17	Ottawas, Miami of the Lake,	Do. do. do.	21	10	100
18	Brainerd, Cherokees, East Mississippi,	Do. do. do.	-	-	550
19	Carmel, do.	Do. do. do.	42	84	50
20	Creek Path, do.	Do. do. do.			50
21	High Tower, do.	Do. do. do.	-	-	50
22	Dwight, West Mississippi,	Do. do. do.	15	50	200
23	Cataraugus, Senecas, New York,	Do. do. do.	9	40	200
24	Carey, on the St. Joseph's river, among the Potawatamies,	Baptist General Convention,	14	70	300
25	Thomas, Grand river, Ottawas,	Do. do.	8	20	
26	Withington, Creek Nation, Georgia,	Do. do.	13	25	225
27	Valley-towns, Cherokees, East Mississippi,	Do. do.	8	50	175
28	Tensawattee, do.	Do. do.	9	38	175
29	Tonawanda, Senecas, New York,	Do. do.	-	30	175
30	Oneida Castle, do.	Protestant Episcopal Church, New York,	3	30	250
31	Oneidas, do.	Hamilton Baptist Missionary Society,	5	35	200
32	Wyandots, near Upper Sandusky, Ohio,	Methodist Society,	2	69	400
33	Asbury Mission, Creek Nation, Georgia,	Do.	6	23	100
34	Monroe, Chickasaw Nation,	Synod of South Carolina and Georgia,	12	24	400
35	Tockshish, do.	Do. do.	4	15	
36	Cane Creek, do.	Do. do.	6	28	
37	Martyn, do.	Do. do.	2	18	
38	Florissant, Missouri,	Society of Jesuits,	9	25	400
39	Charity Hall, Chickasaw Nation,	Cumberland Missionary Board,	9	26	250
40	Pleasant Point, Quaddy Indians, Maine,	Society for propagating the Gospel, &c.	1	60	150
				*1,191	6,600
	To which add amount, allow to Bishop Chase, for education of Indian youths in Ohio,				200
	And also, the amount allowed to Baptist General Convention, for education of Indian youths of promise, in New York,				350
	Total amount of annual allowances for 1827,				$7,150

REMARKS.

All the Schools which have been reported, appear to be in a flourishing condition; and those which have not been reported, it is presumed are in as good and flourishing a condition as they were last year.

NOTE—Under the head of number of Teachers, is included all the Mission Family, including mechanics and laborers. The number of Teachers in the Schools, is from one to three. The reports include the whole, without designating.

* 1,191 in the Schools in the Indian country, and which derive assistance from the appropriation.
100 in the Choctaw Accademy.

Total 1,291

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, *November 24th*, 1827.

SAMUEL S. HAMILTON.

M.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,
August 3, 1827.

SIR: Information has been received by this Department of several outrages being perpetrated by the Winnebago tribe of Indians, attended with circumstances that make it necessary they should be severely chastised for their insolence and violence. The extent of the combination is as yet uncertain. It is, however, sufficiently great, especially having reference to their long continued hostility and number, to justify, and, indeed, to require, that a respectable portion of our force should be carried to the theatre of their outrages, the neighborhood of Prairie du Chien, the post itself having been threatened.

We have been advised by Governor Cass that General Atkinson, with great promptness, had prepared to move with a portion of the troops, a regiment and four companies, from Jefferson Barracks to Fort Crawford, and it is possible that Colonel Snelling, and indeed General Brady both, may have also united portions of their respective commands for the same object. I presume that the measures already adopted to protect our citizens, and to inflict due chastisement on the offenders, will have been successfully carried into effect, and doubt not that they will meet the exigency of the occasion.

Let the Department be regularly advised of the course of events.

I have the honor to be, &c.

JAMES BARBOUR.

Major General EDMUND P. GAINES,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,
September 4, 1827.

SIR: I have the honor, by direction of the Secretary of War, to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, of the 16th ultimo, and, in reply thereto, to state that he approves of the measures which you have taken to inflict such punishment upon the hostile Winnebagoes as the outrages which they have committed merit, and as will ensure their future good conduct.

Funds for the ordinary expenditures of the expedition under General Atkinson have been remitted by the Quartermaster General. The appropriations for that Department are, however, too limited to warrant the immediate payment of unexpected drafts to a large amount. In reference to the purchase of horses, which you had provisionally directed, it is hoped, from recent information, that it may not have been found necessary to resort to it; but, if the purchase has been made, it will be ratified by the Department.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

C. J. NOURSE, *Chief Clerk.*

Major General EDMUND P. GAINES.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,
October 9*th*, 1827.

GENERAL: I have been informed, unofficially, that you had given instructions to General Atkinson to require, as the price of pacifications with the Winnebagoes, a surrender of a portion of their Territory. Although the fate of war, executed in sternness, may justify this measure, more especially when it has been waged by a whole tribe—as yet, the United States have pursued a different policy: they have been governed by a spirit of forbearance, and have adopted the humane maxim to spare the weak. If, therefore, these deluded people have given up the murderers of our people, so that they may be brought to condign punishment, the surrender of any portion of their territory may be dispensed with, and peace be restored to them.

I have the honor, &c.
JAMES BARBOUR.

Gen. E. P. GAINES.

HEAD QUARTERS, WESTERN DEPARTMENT,

Cincinnati, Ohio, August 16, 1827.

SIR: I have been honored with your letter of the 3d of the present month, in relation to the repeated outrages of the Winnebagoes.

I am much gratified to find, that the measures promptly adopted by General Atkinson, on the receipt of Governor Cass' report of those outrages, were such as you had anticipated, and such as are likely to be approved by the President of the United States.

From the reports of General Atkinson, which have been transmitted to the Adjutant-General's Office, I find that he had reached Fort Armstrong, Rock Island, on the 23d of July, with 310 men; that Major Ketchum was but a short distance in the rear, with 225 men; and that Colonel Snelling, with near 200 men of the 5th Infantry, had arrived at Prairie du Chien; making a total of more than seven hundred men.

This force is deemed sufficient to inflict on the hostile bands of the Winnebagoes that chastisement which their insolence demands, and such as will be necessary to ensure their respect, and future observance of any treaty of peace between us. I have directed General Atkinson to inflict on them exemplary punishment; but, being convinced that he will be unable to pursue or meet them, except at *times* and *in places* of *their own selection*, without the aid of mounted men, I have authorized him to obtain, by purchase or otherwise, a sufficient number of horses to mount two or three of his companies.

I respectfully solicit the President's approbation of this measure, with 25,000 dollars to be placed in the hands of General Atkinson's Quartermaster, for the purchase of the horses, and to defray other contingent expenses of the present expedition.

Should the hostile party be sustained by the principal chiefs and warriors of the nation, supposed to consist of near 1500; or, should any of the neighboring nations unite with them in the war; I shall, in that event, without loss of time, repair to the spot, with all the force that I can take from Jefferson Barracks, and from the new post upon the Missouri; and, with the aid of that under General Atkinson, shall endeavor to settle the affair as speedily as possible.

With great respect,
I have the honor to be,
Your obedient servant,
EDMUND P. GAINES,
Maj. Gen. by Bt. Commanding.

The Hon. JAMES BARBOUR,
Secretary of War, Washington D. C.

Memorandum of a letter from Gen. Atkinson to Governor Cass, which has been accidentally left with Major Whistler, commanding at Green Bay. The substance of it is stated from recollection. It is dated

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, *July* 31, 1827.

Gen. Atkinson states his arrival at the Prairie, with about 500 men. Col. Snelling had previously reached there with about four companies of his regiment, making Gen. Atkinson's whole force about 700 men. A detachment had been sent into the country, but no traces of the Indians had been discovered. It was supposed that the hostile party had left the Mississippi, and had concentrated on the Ouisconsin. Gen. Atkinson states it as his opinion, that the persons who committed the murder at the Prairie, and a few of the principal Winebagoes who attacked the boat, should be apprehended at all events, and that nothing short of this measure will afford security to the frontier. He doubts whether he ought to take any offensive operation without the instruction of the Government, and requests the opinion of Governor Cass respecting the measures he ought to undertake. Six Winnebago Chiefs had been apprehended, and were in confinement at the Prairie. He was determined to remain inactive at all events, until the return of the express.

HEAD QUARTERS, WESTERN DEPARTMENT,
St. Louis, September 8, 1827.

SIR: I met at this city, this morning, two letters from General Atkinson, one dated at Prairie du Chien, the 27th August, 1827, and the other at English Prairie, on the Ouisconsin, the 2d of the present month; copies of which I enclose, herewith.

By the first of these letters, you will perceive the object of General Atkinson's movement towards the Ouisconsin Portage; and, by the last, that he had proceeded 80 miles in advance of Prairie du Chien, and had been joined by General Dodge, of Illinois, with 130 volunteer militia.

The measures of Governor Cass, of which I cannot doubt but that he has duly advised you, appear to me to have increased the difficulty of an adjustment of our late differences with the Winnebagoes; and to have left erroneous and dangerous impressions on their minds, as well as on the minds of the other Indians who attended the late council at Green Bay, inasmuch as they were invited to attend the Treaty, *to receive provisions and presents*; and they did, in fact, attend, continued for several days in Council with the United States' Commissioners, received provisions and presents, agreeably to promise, and did, finally, conclude and sign a *Treaty*—a treaty, too, relating principally to subjects unconnected with the late outrages upon our frontier, and without referring, otherwise than merely *incidentally* referring, to those outrages—outrages which surely merited sufficient attention to have been placed, if not *above* every other possible subject of negotiation, at least on an equal footing with any other.

The inevitable consequence of such measures will be, to impress the Indians with an idea that we set but little value upon the lives of our citizens; and they will be more likely to renew their massacres, than to make atonement for the past, or give a satisfactory pledge for their future good conduct.

I am, most respectfully, your most ob't serv't.

EDMUND P. GAINES,
Maj. Gen. by Bre't, Com'dg.

The Hon. JAMES BARBOUR,
Sec'y of War, Washington, D. C.

Copy of a letter from Gen. Atkinson to Gen. Gaines, dated

PRARIE DU CHIEN, *Aug.* 27, 1827.

GENERAL: Our express returned from Green Bay on the 19th inst. bringing letters from Gov. Cass, copies of which, and copies of my letters to him, also copies of several letters to and from myself to other persons, are herewith enclosed. You will perceive that the Governor has not settled our difficulties with the Winnebagoes, although they were in council with him a fortnight. You will also see the manner in which he has left the matter to be adjusted, with his views upon the course to be pursued. The assemblage of the Chiefs at Green Bay has prevented me from entering upon a course of adjustment with them. They have answered the call I made upon them to meet me here, by saying they could not leave the ground till the council of Gov. Cass was over. They would then, they said, apprehend the murderers and give them up to me. I have heard nothing of or from them since, nor

have I received from Gov. Cass the information promised in his letter of the 10th inst. to me, sent by express, relative to the final result of his conference with them.

Yesterday four Winnebagoe Indians arrived here, at 12 o'clock, from a village 18 leagues up the Ouisconsin. Carawane, an old chief, of not much note, was of the number. He stated, as none of his people had returned from the council, and not learning what had been done there, he had come to pay me a visit, and learn the news. I doubt the truth of his statement. I believe he was sent here by the nation to see how he would be received preparatory to the coming of men of more consequence. I sent him back immediately, with instructions to send runners to the different bands for their chiefs to come to me without delay, to settle the existing difficulties. He readily promised to do so, and said the chiefs would very soon come.

I propose, in a few days, to take a position at the Ouisconsin portage, for the purpose of pressing on the Winnebagoes the necessity of surrendering up the murderers. I only wait for the arrival of a low steam boat, of light draught, which is expected hourly. If she does not arrive in a day or two, I must make my way up in keels and some light craft which we have here. The movement has now become more necessary, as Major Whistler has, I expect, moved upon that point with a small force. It will be difficult, however, to penetrate the Indian country from thence, for the want of transportation. I may receive information, in the mean time, to induce me to change my present purposes. I shall not act offensively till I receive orders, unless such a measure should become indispensable.

Col. Snelling arrived at Fort Snelling on the 16th inst. and Major Fowle, from thence, at this place, on the 21st. inst.

I wait with much anxiety for instructions from you.

I certify this a true copy.

R. LOWNDES, *Aid-de-camp.*

Copy of a letter from General Atkinson to General Gaines, dated at English Prairie, eighty miles above Prairie du Chien, 2d September, 1827.

General: I moved, with the brigade under my immediate orders, from Prairie du Chien, on the morning of the 29th ult. in five keel and four Mackinac boats. Last evening I was joined by General Dodge, with 130 Galena volunteers, mounted men. After proceeding this morning some six or eight miles, I crossed his party to the north side of this river. We proceed in the morning for the Ouisconsin Portage.

I yet think the Winnebagoes will give up the offenders. This I shall press. I shall endeavor to adjust the difficulty with as little delay as possible.

I certify this a true copy.

R. LOWNDES, *Aid-de-Camp.*

HEAD QUARTERS, WESTERN DEPARTMENT,
Jefferson Barracks, Oct. 11, 1827.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, the reports of Brigadier General Atkinson, numbered 1 to 6, inclusively, giving a detailed account of the late expedition, which has terminated in the adjustment of our differences with the Winnebagoe Indians, with the voluntary surrender, on the part of the Chiefs of that nation, of six of the principal offenders of the hostile party.

To give effect to this arrangement, it is deemed essential to bring the offenders to a speedy trial and punishment.

I had the honor to receive, at Fort Armstrong, on my return from Forts Snelling and Crawford, a few days past, your letter of the 4th of last month.

Very respectfully, &c.
EDMUND P. GAINES,
Maj. Gen. by brev. com'dg.

Hon. JAMES BARBOUR,
Secretary of War.

No. 1.

HEAD QRS. RIGHT WING, WESTERN DEP'T,
Prairie du Chien, 17th Sept. 1827.

GENERAL: I have only time to inform you of my return to this post on the 13th inst. from the Ouisconsin Portage. I have succeeded in obtaining the surrender of the four Winnebago Indians who committed the murder here, and who, afterwards, excited and led the attack on the keel boats on their descent from Fort Snelling. I have demanded the surrender of two others, which the Chiefs promise shall be given up in a day or two. They have placed hostages in my hands for the security of this promise.

I expect to be able to close all our difficulties with those Indians, and return to Jefferson Barracks, by the 1st of October.

Your communications from Cincinnati, of the 14th, 22d, and 24th ultimo, reached me this morning. The course I have pursued in my operations in this quarter, accord pretty nearly with your instructions. I have required no cession of lands from the Winnebagoes, because, at the time I did not feel authorized to make a treaty of that nature. I have, however, entered into written articles with them, stipulating that the white people, in the mining district of country, shall procure mineral unmolested, till the Government shall appoint a commission to fix a boundary. I deemed it advisable to open the subject in this way, that the Government might more easily effect a cession of lands from them, and, in the mean time, to give security to the miners. The articles entered into with ~~the tribe,~~ shall be forwarded to you

with my detailed report, which shall be made out as early as practicable. If the Winnebagoes, contrary to my expectation, shall fail to give up the remaining two men demanded of them, I shall hold in custody the nine hostages I have in my hands, and take such further steps as the case may demand.

The nation appear to be overawed and subdued in their feelings, and I think the marching of so formidable a force as we did into the heart of their country will have the most salutary and lasting effect.

With very great respect, Sir,
I have the honor to be,
Your most ob't serv't,
H. ATKINSON,
Brig. Gen. U. S. Army.

To Major General GAINES,
Commanding, &c. &c.

No. 2.

HEAD QUARTERS, RIGHT WING, WESTERN DEPARTMENT,
Prairie du Chien, 20th September, 1827.

GENERAL: This is the day on which I expect the Winnebagoes will surrender up the remaining offenders demanded of them. I have scarcely a doubt upon the subject, as they have placed six of their principal men, and three of less note, in my hands, as hostages. So soon as I accomplish this object, I will move with my brigade for Jefferson Barracks, leaving this post garrisoned by four companies of the 5th Regiment, under the command of Major Fowle.

With very great respect, Sir,
I have the honor to be,
Your most obedient servant,
H. ATKINSON,
Brigadier General United States' Army.

Major General GAINES,
Commanding Western Department, now at Jefferson Barracks.

No. 3.

Provisional articles entered into between Brigadier General Henry Atkinson, United States' Army, on the part of the United States, and the undersigned Chiefs and Head Men of the Winnebago tribe of Indians, on the part of said tribe, subject to the approval of the President of the United States:

ARTICLE 1st. Whereas some conflicting claims to the district of country East of the Mississippi river, lying between the Fever and Ouisconsin rivers exists, it is agreed that a Commission shall be appointed by the President of the United States, to meet the Chiefs and

Head Men of the Winnebago tribe of Indians, and other tribes setting up claims to said district at Prairie du Chien, Galena, or such other convenient point as he may direct, in the course of the ensuing Spring or Summer, for the adjustment of such claims, and for running a line of demarcation between the lands of the United States and said claimants.

ARTICLE 2d. Until the above Council shall meet and fix the line of demarcation, all citizens of the United States, licensed by the President, or his agents, shall procure mineral in the district of country now and heretofore used for that purpose by the white people, free from the encroachment or interruption of the Winnebago Indians.

In witness whereof the undersigned have hereunto put their hands and seals this ninth day of September, 1827, at Camp Ouisconsin Portage.

H. Atkinson, *Brig. Gen. U. S. Army,*
Carramani, his x mark.
Decorri, his x mark.
Waunoaskikar, his x mark.
Kashkeepar, his x mark.
Myweetoakhindgar, his x mark.
Caramani, the Lame, his x mark.
Karartshoaker, his x mark.
Marmampoa Khoanoanikar, his x mark.
Tshaarar Tshoonkar, his x mark.
Kisoanyaaker, his x mark.
Hatshonwonkar, his x mark.
Shoonktshunk Jarpkar, his x mark.
Wankon Decorri, his x mark.
Kartsheerikar, his x mark.
Tsheerushkartshikar, his x mark.
Karharsarkar, his x mark.
Harhadmarniker, his x mark.
Oagemansarmakar, his x mark.
Haasunkeekar, his x mark.
Hoonshkhatekar, his x mark.
Poatshkerekar, his x mark.
Heweetshoakar, his x mark.
Wonkshikooneeker, his x mark.
Noaktshookeekar, his x mark.

Signed in the presence of
John Fowle, *Major U. S. Army,*
J. G. Swearingen, *Lt. 6th Infantry,*
W. Morgan, *Lt. Col. 5th Infantry,*
H. Dodge, *Commanding Galena Volunteers,*
Samuel Whiteside,
J. M. Strode,
Wm. Henry,
M. Meikner,
J. Marsh, *U. S. Indian Agent,*
R. B. Mason, *Capt. 1st Infantry.*
S. W. Kearney, *Major U. S. Army.*
S. Mackee, *Lieut. and Aid-de-Camp.*
A. Drane, *A. C. S. U. S. A.*
Wash. Wheelright, *Lt. 1st Artillery,*
Wm. L. Harris, *Lt. 1st Infantry,*
R. Riley, *Capt. 6th Infantry,*
R. Austun, *Lt. 4th Infantry,*
Thomas P. Gwynn, *Lt. 1st Infantry,*
James W Kingsbury, *Lt. 1st. Regt. Infantry,*
F. Sougrain,
Pierre Ponquette, his x mark.

No. 4.

Head Quarters, Right Wing, Western Dep't.
Prairie du Chien, 22d September, 1827.

To all whom it may concern:

Know ye, that the Winnebago Nation, having surrendered up all the offenders in the late transgressions, that have been demanded of them, and showing an entire submission to the authority of the United States, I have granted them peace.

Their country is opened to licensed traders, and they are to be treated as friends, so long as they they demean themselves peaceably.

Given under my hand.

H. ATKINSON,
Brigadier General U. S. Army.

(Copies were furnished the Indians.)

No. 5.

Le Prairie du Chien, *Sept.* 22, 1827.

Memorandum of the witnesses to be called on the trial of the Winnebago prisoners in confinement at this place, for the murder of Registre Gaguier and Solomon Lipcap, and for wounding and scalping a child of the said of Registre Gaguier, with an intent to kill, to wit: Benjamin Esquire, (or L'Ecuiyer,) James Esquire, (or L'Ecuiyer,) and Peter Giguon, inhabitants of Green Bay, and Peter Pankett, of the Portage of the Ouisconsin. These witnesses will prove that the Red Bird and the Sun confessed that they were guilty of the murder with which they were charged, and for which they were surrendered by that nation. The wife of Gaugier is a witness against all the four concerned in the abovementioned murders. Louisant Bart, (a Winnebago Interpreter, residing at this place) will prove that the brother-in-law of the Red Bird confessed to General Atkinson and others that he had shot Lipcap. The son of Red Bird, who it is probable had no concern in the murder, but who was present when it was committed, is also an important witness. He is now in confinement at this place, and will be held in confinement until the other three are tried.

Louisant Bart will prove that Calumet Eagle, one of the prisoners, confessed to General Atkinson that he had fired on the keel boats. Against Little Thunder, another prisoner, there is no testimony, except that of the son of Red Bird, who will prove that he fired on the boats.

No. 6.

HEAD QUARTERS, RIGHT WING, WESTERN DEP'T,
Jefferson Barracks, 28th September, 1827.

GENERAL: I have the honor to inform you of my return to this post yesterday, from the Upper Mississippi, with the detachments of the 1st and 6th Regiments of Infantry, after a passage of four and a half days from Prairie du Chien.

You are informed, by my communication of the 17th instant, of the Winnebago Nation having, at Ouisconsin Portage, surrendered the four Indians who committed the murder at Prairie du Chien, and excited and led the attack on the keel boats returning from Fort Snelling, and of the promise of the Chiefs to deliver up two other leading men, implicated in the affair.

On the evening of the 21st instant, the last mentioned two men were surrendered at Fort Crawford—one a young Chief, and the other a noted Brave. In limiting my demand to the surrender of only six men, all the principal offenders that are now alive were included, and I was under the impression that that number would be quite sufficient for an example, and as many as would be executed, if a greater number were given up. My communications, up to the 2d inst. give an account of my operations to that time; but to exhibit a correct view of the character of the recent disturbances, and a consequent movement of the troops, it is necessary to recur to the conduct of the Winnebagoes for the last nine months. As far back as that period, it has been ascertained that all the bands concurred in sending war clubs, belts, and pipes, to the neighboring tribes, as well as to some of the tribes to the South, with a view to produce a general combination for the purpose of making war on our frontiers. It is difficult to say what impression was made on other tribes by these war messages, or how far it extended; but it is confidently believed that nothing but the prompt movement of the troops from this post, prevented a war upon our Northwestern frontier. It appears that, towards the end of June was the time fixed upon for the commencement of hostilities: about the middle of that month, Mr. Marsh, Sub-Agent, was informed, through the Sioux, that Prairie du Chien would be attacked. On the 26th of June, a noted Brave of the Prairie Le Cross Band, called the Red Bird, accompanied by three other men of the same band, came to Prairie du Chien and entered a farm house, a little below the village, and killed, mangled, and scalped two men, and wounded and scalped a child, of about twelve months of age. On the 30th, the Red Bird and his party returned to their village, eighty miles above, on the Mississippi, with the trophies of their massacre; on the same day, the keel boat, returning from Fort Snelling, passed that point, and were attacked by the whole band, consisting of about thirty-five or forty warriors, seven Indians were killed, and two of the boat's crew, in the rencontre. About the time of these occurrences, the Winnebagoes on Rock River evinced a restless and hostile disposition. Persons go-

ing and returning from Illinois to the Fever river mines were robbed and insulted. A party from St. Louis were robbed, and one of them fired upon at the Rock River Crossings.

The huts of the miners were entered, their cooking utensils broken, and their provisions taken, and threats made that, on the succeeding full moon, the miners would be attacked and driven out of the country. Soon after hostilities had commenceed at and above Prairie du Chien, the Winnebagoes left their lower villages on Rock River, and their villages on the Mississippi and Ouisconsin, secreted their women and children, and assembled in a body at Cashquonomony, on the head of Rock river, assuming a determined spirit of hostility. At the moment of this preparation for war, Governor Cass arrived at St. Louis, bringing information of the hostilities that had been comted, and of the attitude assumed by those Indians, and recommending, officially, a prompt movement of part of the force at this post to the scene of commotion. Being charged with the protection of the frontier, I could not hesitate on the course that should be pursued. Accordingly, I moved, on the 15th of July, with upwards of 500 effective men, and reached Fever river on the 27th, furnished the Committee of Safety of Galena with 200 stand of arms, 7,000 cartridges, and 200 pounds of cannon powder, and arrived on the 29th at Prairie du Chien, where I found the Fort garrisoned by four companies of the 5th regiment of infantry, and a company of militia, under Colonel Snelling, who had, a few days before, arrived from Fort Snelling. Governor Cass, having required the Winnebagoes to meet him in Council near Green Bay, it became necessary for me to suspend my operations, till the result of their conference with him was known. I despatched an express to him, informing him of my arrival at Fort Crawford, and of the course I considered it proper to be taken for the adjustment of the existing difficulties. In the mean time, till I could receive his answer, I took measures to provision Fort Snelling, which was destitute of bread, salt, vinegar, and beans; also, measures for permanently garrisoning and provisioning Fort Crawford, and procuring some light craft to ascend the Ouisconsin.

Accordingly, Colonel Snelling was ordered back to Fort Snelling, with the four companies of his regiment then on duty under him, with a supply of flour for the post, and with instructions to send down four other companies of his regiment, under the orders of Major Fowle, and such light craft as could be obtained at or near St. Peter's. Our express returned from Green Bay on the 19th of August, with letters from Governor Cass, (copies of which you have received,) stating he had not effected any adjustment of our difficulties with the Winnebagoes, and expressed an apprehension that an attack would be made on the inhabitants of Fever river, and the necessity of my moving a body of troops to the Ouisconsin Portage. On the 21st of August, Major Fowle arrived at Fort Crawford, with four companies of the 5th regiment, in two keel and nine Macanaw boats. Having now provisioned Fort Snelling, and received from thence some light craft, and a detachment to garrison Fort Crawford, and such information from Gov.

Cass as to enable me to determine upon a course to be pursued, I decided upon the following, viz: To move to the Ouisconsin Portage with thirteen companies of infantry, and two six pounders, and to call on the Committee of Safety of Galena for a body of mounted volunteers, to accompany the regular troops, in order at once to put down all opposition on the part of the Winnebagoes, and quell the alarm at Fever river and on our frontier.

Being destitute of horses, or land transportation, I deemed the services of a body of mounted men highly essential, as, by dismounting a part of them, horses could be obtained for the service of our field pieces, and for transporting a small supply of provisions, in the event of it becoming necessary to act offensively against the Indians. On the 29th of August, I moved with the regular troops, and commenced the ascent of the Ouisconsin in five keel and ten Macanaw boats. General Dodge, from Galena, with 130 mounted men, joined me on the first of September, and, on the 6th, we reached the Ouisconsin Portage. Major Whistler had arrived from Green Bay on the first of September, at a point on Fox river, opposite, with two companies of the second regiment, a company of militia, and a body of New York and Menominee Indians. Two of the offenders, on our near approach, were surrendered to Major Whistler, on the 3d of September. On the 8th, the Winnebago chiefs, who had assembled at the Portage, met me in council, and delivered up two other offenders, (these four, the Red Bird, the Sun, a brother-in-law of Red Bird, and a son of Red Bird, were the persons who committed the murder at Prairie du Chien,) but declared their inability to surrender, at that time, two principal men of the Prairie La Cross band, whom I had demanded, and proposed to delivered them up in a few days at Fort Crawford. On the 9th, the chiefs again met me in council. Believing they were at the time unable to make the surrender demanded of them, I consented to wait for their delivery at Fort Crawford, as proposed by them, they giving up hostages for the fulfilment of their promise. Having arranged the business thus far, I proceeded to guard the immediate interest of the inhabitants of Fever river, by entering into written articles with the Winnebagoes, stipulating that the miners should have an unmolested privilege of procuring mineral in the district of country between Fever river and the Ouisconsin, until the Government should appoint a commission to settle all conflicting claims to that section of country, with a view, at the same time, to open the subject, that the United States might acquire a cession of mineral land from the Winnebagoes, and the Pattawatamies, Ottoways, and Chippeways, of Illinois, lying between the Mississippi, Ouisconsin, and Rock rivers, in which the prosperity of the Western Country is deeply interested. Those articles are herewith submitted for the information of the Government. Finding that the movement of the troops into the heart of their country had overawed and subdued all feeling of hostility or resistance on the part of the Winnebagoes, I consented, at their earnest request, to grant them peace as soon as the remaining two offenders were given up. These were delivered on

the 21st September, and, on the 22d, I issued a proclamation granting the peace sued for by them, a copy of which is herewith submitted. I left Fort Crawford garrisoned by four companies of the fifth regiment, under Major Fowle, provisioned for twelve months, and supplied with ordnance and ordnance stores; and I have no doubt that frontier is in a state of tranquillity, that will not be shortly interrupted. It is very important that a special court should be ordered to set at Prairie du Chien, as early as practicable, for the trial of the Winnebago prisoners. There are now eight confined there, two of whom have been lingering in chains for eighteen months. If the attention of the Executive was called to the subject, I have no doubt but a court would at once be ordered.

I submit a list of the testimony to be taken in the case of the six Indian prisoners recently confined.

With very great respect, sir, I have the honor to be, your most obedient servant,

H. ATKINSON,
Brig. Gen. U. S. Army.

To Maj. Gen. Gaines.

N.

War Department,

Bounty Land Office, 19*th Nov.* 1827.

Sir: Agreeably to instructions, I have the honor to enclose the annual report of business of this Office, for the year ending the 30th of September last.

I am, Sir,
With respect,
Your obedient servant,
E. STEPHENS.

The Hon. James Barbour,
Secretary of War.

Return of Claims which have been deposited at this office, for the year ending the 30th September, 1827, for services rendered during the "Revolutionary War."

Claims suspended per last annual report, for sundry reasons,	193
Do received from 1st Oct. 1826, to the 30th Sept. 1827, inclusively, - - - - - - -	478
Total,	671